

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the objections contained in the Office Action of January 26, 2005 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has objected to the claims and abstract in this application because reference numbers are contained in both the claims and the abstract, and the reference numbers are not enclosed within parentheses so as to thereby possibly cause confusion with other numbers appearing in the claims or abstract. In order to address these objections, and in order to make various additional editorial corrections to both the claims and the specification, formal amendments to the application have been made as explained below.

In order to make necessary editorial corrections, the entire specification and abstract have been reviewed and revised. As the revisions are quite extensive, the amendments to the specification and abstract have been incorporated into the attached substitute specification and abstract. For the Examiner's benefit, a marked-up copy of the specification indicating the changes made thereto is also enclosed. No new matter has been added by the revisions. Entry of the substitute specification is thus respectfully requested.

In addition, the claims have been amended in order to cancel the non-elected claims, to remove the reference numbers so as to address the Examiner's objection to the claims, and to make various additional formal changes so as to place the claims in a preferred form. However, the Examiner is requested to note that all of the amendments to the claims are directed to matters of form not affecting the scope of the claims. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the amendments to the claims. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's objections to the claims have been overcome in view of the amendments discussed above.

In view of the above amendments and the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

Toshinaga Urabe

By: 

W. Douglas Hahm

Registration No. 44,142

Attorney for Applicant

WDH/abm
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
April 7, 2005